



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

INFORMATION SERVICE

UNITED STATES FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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FISHING INDUSTRY GATHERS HARVEST, PLANS SALES

As the fishing fleets bring in heavy seasonal catches of many varieties of fish and shellfish, the distribution segment of the industry is planning several promotional campaigns to assure the fullest possible use of the various products, according to the Commercial Fisheries Outlook for July, August and September. The Outlook is a publication of the Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior.

The three promotional campaigns are National Fish Week, September 18-28; National Canned Salmon Week, August 23-30; and National Tuna Week, October 24-November 1. The Bureau of Commercial Fisheries of the Fish and Wildlife Service will cooperate in all these promotional campaigns.

Seasonal highs will be reached in the landings of halibut, ocean perch, whiting, salmon, lobsters, shrimp and haddock during this quarter. Surf clam, hard crab, and Maine sardine landings also will be at their peak. The Atlantic Coast oyster fishery is recovering some from the hurricane damage of recent years and will begin cutting down on the backlog of orders in September when the new season opens.

Indications from the Pacific halibut fishery are that the catch this year will equal the 67-million-pound harvest of 1956. Shrimp production will depend upon weather conditions in the Gulf of Mexico, but unless hurricanes interfere the harvest should be about the same as last year.

The quarterly report also indicates that--

Maine lobster landings for the first four months have been 27 percent higher than during a like period in 1956 but somewhat lower than during the first four months of 1955;

Canned Maine sardine inventories are low as the fishery enters the peak production period;

Prospects are for a light pack of California sardines, but the pack of Pacific mackerel is 70 percent above that of the same period in 1956;

Freshwater fish landings will be light during the summer;

Surf clam landings in New Jersey are 68 percent above those of 1956 and 130 percent above those for 1955;

Soft clam landings will be low, but soft crabs will be in good supply.

Copies of the Commercial Fisheries Outlook for July-September 1957, Fishery Leaflet 336gg may be secured from the Division of Information, Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington 25, D. C.

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